



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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Reminder of Seasonal Boundary Shifts Beginning November 1, 2011, for Atlantic and Gulf Groups of King Mackerel off the Florida Coast

NOAA Fisheries Service reminds fishermen that the boundary between the Atlantic and Gulf groups of king mackerel off Florida's coast shifts because of the migratory nature of king mackerel. This change begins November 1, 2011, and also affects daily commercial trip limits.

The area west of the Florida/Alabama state line is considered the Western zone for the Gulf group king mackerel year-round, with a trip limit of 3,000 pounds.

The area north of 29° 25' N. lat. (a line directly east of the Flagler/Volusia County boundary on the east coast of Florida) is considered to contain Atlantic group king mackerel year-round, with a 3,500-pound trip limit.

November 1–March 31 (see map on next page)

During this time period, fish harvested south of the Flagler/Volusia County line to 25° 20.4' N. lat. (a line directly east from the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line) are considered Gulf group king mackerel. The trip limit for the commercial sector in this Florida east coast subzone during this time period is 50 fish per day, until February 1. After February 1, trip limits may increase to 75 fish per day, if 75 percent of the quota has not been reached.

Fish harvested from Monroe County during this time are considered to be Gulf group king mackerel in the Florida west coast southern subzone. This subzone extends south and west from the Miami-Dade/Monroe County boundary on the east coast of Florida to 26° 19.8' N. lat. (a line directly west from the Lee/Collier County boundary on the west coast of Florida). The commercial trip limit for the hook-and-line sector is 1,250 pounds until 75 percent of the quota is reached. After that, the trip limit is reduced to 500 pounds until the end of the fishing season or 100 percent of the quota is met.

April 1–October 31 (see map on next page)

Beginning April 1, the boundary between Atlantic and Gulf groups of king mackerel shifts south and west from

the Flagler/Volusia County boundary on the Florida east coast to the Monroe/Collier County boundary on the Florida west coast. After the boundary shift, fish harvested along the east coast of Florida, including all of Monroe County, are considered to be Atlantic group king mackerel.

After the boundary shift, the commercial trip limit for waters off Volusia County becomes 3,500 pounds per day – the same as the trip limit north of the Flagler/Volusia County boundary. The commercial trip limit for the area southward from 28° 47.8' N. lat. (a line directly east from the Volusia/Brevard County line) to 25° 20.4' N. lat. (a line directly east from the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line) becomes 75 fish per day. The commercial trip limit off Monroe County becomes 1,250 pounds.

The west coast of Florida is divided into northern and southern zones at 26° 19.8' N. lat. (a line directly west from the Lee/Collier County line). The northern subzone extends to the Florida/Alabama state line and remains the same year-round. However, with the April boundary shift, the southern subzone for Gulf group king mackerel is reduced to the area off Collier County. Both the northern and southern subzones have a trip limit of 1,250 pounds until 75 percent of the quota is reached. After that, the trip limit is reduced to 500 pounds until the end of the fishing season or 100 percent of the quota is met. The northern subzone closed October 7, 2011, and will reopen July 1, 2012.

For an additional explanation about mackerel zones, boundaries, and trip limits, please visit our web site at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/MakingSenseofMackerel.htm>

This bulletin provides only a summary of the information regarding the existing regulations. Any discrepancies between this bulletin and the regulations as published in the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.



Commercial Hook-and- Line Quotas for King Mackerel (pounds)	
Gulf Group	
Western Zone	1,010,000
Eastern Zone	
Florida West Coast Subzone Northern	168,750
Florida West Coast Subzone Southern	520,312
Florida East Coast Subzone	1,040,625
Atlantic Group (includes gillnets north of Cape Lookout, NC)	3,710,000